CLAIMS

The invention claimed is:

5   1.   A device comprising:

a telephone port for coupling to a telephone network; and

a processor coupled with the telephone port, wherein the processor is adapted to

establish a modem connection with a modem over a telephone line;

10   exchange data with the modem over the modem connection;

receive from the modem a first MOH request for temporarily discontinuing the modem connection;

grant the first request and starting a timer;

receive from the modem a second MOH request for temporarily discontinuing

15   the modem connection again;

consult the timer to determine whether a log-in session timeout time limit has been exceeded; and

if the log-in session timeout time limit has been exceeded, deny the second MOH request.

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2.   The device of claim 1, wherein the processor is further adapted to:

transmit to the modem a warning message that subsequent requests will also be denied.

25   3.   The device of claim 1, wherein the processor is further adapted to:

additionally transmit a reason for denying the second MOH request.

4.   The device of claim 1, wherein the processor is further adapted to:

if the log-in session timeout time limit has not been exceeded, restart the

30   timer.

5.   The device of claim 1, wherein

the log-in session timeout time limit is a preset default maximum timeout value.

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6.   The device of claim 1, wherein the processor is further adapted to:

determine the log-in session timeout time limit.

7.　The device of claim 6, wherein the processor is further adapted to:

　　receive information to identify a user; and

5　　　look up data about the identified user to determine the log-in session timeout time limit.

8.　A device comprising:

　　a modem for coupling to a telephone network; and

10　　　a processor coupled with the modem, wherein the processor is adapted to

　　establish a modem connection with a network device over a telephone line;

　　exchange data with the network device over the modem connection;

　　transmit through the modem connection a first request for temporarily discontinuing the modem connection;

15　　　temporarily discontinue the modem connection pursuant to the first request; and

　　receive from the network device a warning message that a next request for temporarily discontinuing the modem connection will be denied.

20　9.　The device of claim 8, wherein the processor is further adapted to:

　　additionally receive a reason for the warning message.

10.　The device of claim 8, wherein the processor is further adapted to:

　　receive a line request to transmit to the network device a new MOH request

25　for temporarily discontinuing the modem connection after receiving the warning message; and

　　not transmit the new MOH request over the telephone line responsive to having received the warning message.

30　11.　The device of claim 10, wherein the processor is further adapted to:

　　notify a user that the line request is denied.

12.　A device comprising:

　　means for establishing a modem connection with a modem over a telephone

35　line;

means for exchanging data with the modem over the modem connection;

means for receiving from the modem a first MOH request for temporarily discontinuing the modem connection;

means for granting the first request;

5   means for starting a timer in association with the means for granting the first request;

means for receiving from the modem a second MOH request for temporarily discontinuing the modem connection again;

means for consulting the timer to determine whether a log-in session timeout

10   time limit has been exceeded; and

if the log-in session timeout time limit has been exceeded, means for denying the second MOH request.

13.   The device of claim 12, further comprising:

15   means for transmitting to the modem a warning message that subsequent requests will also be denied.

14.   The device of claim 12, further comprising:

means for additionally transmitting a reason for denying the second MOH

20   request.

15.   The device of claim 12, further comprising:

if the log-in session timeout time limit has not been exceeded, means for restarting the timer.

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16.   The device of claim 12, wherein

the log-in session timeout time limit is a preset default maximum timeout value.

30   17.   The device of claim 12, further comprising:

means for determining the log-in session timeout time limit.

18.   The device of claim 17, further comprising:

means for receiving information to identify a user; and

35   means for looking up data about the identified user to determine the log-in session timeout time limit.

19.   A device comprising:

        establishing a modem connection with a network device over a telephone line;

        exchanging data with the network device over the modem connection;

        transmitting through the modem connection a first request for temporarily

5   discontinuing the modem connection;

        temporarily discontinuing the modem connection pursuant to the first request;

and

        receiving from the network device a warning message that a next request for

temporarily discontinuing the modem connection will be denied.

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20.   The device of claim 19, further comprising:

        means for additionally receiving a reason for the warning message.

21.   The device of claim 19, further comprising:

15   means for receiving a line request to transmit to the network device a new

MOH request for temporarily discontinuing the modem connection after receiving the

warning message; and

        means for not transmitting the new MOH request over the telephone line

responsive to having received the warning message.

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22.   The device of claim 21, further comprising:

        means for notifying a user that the line request is denied.

23.   An article comprising: a storage medium, the storage medium having

25   instructions stored thereon, wherein when the instructions are executed by at least one

device, they result in:

        establishing a modem connection with a modem over a telephone line;

        exchanging data with the modem over the modem connection;

        receiving from the modem a first MOH request for temporarily discontinuing

30   the modem connection;

        granting the first request and starting a timer;

        receiving from the modem a second MOH request for temporarily

discontinuing the modem connection again;

consulting the timer to determine whether a log-in session timeout time limit has been exceeded; and

if the log-in session timeout time limit has been exceeded, denying the second MOH request.

24. The article of claim 23, wherein the instructions further result in:

transmitting to the modem a warning message that subsequent requests will also be denied.

25. The article of claim 23, wherein the instructions further result in:

additionally transmitting a reason for denying the second MOH request.

26. The article of claim 23, wherein the instructions further result in:

if the log-in session timeout time limit has not been exceeded, restarting the timer.

27. The article of claim 23, wherein

the log-in session timeout time limit is a preset default maximum timeout value.

28. The article of claim 23, wherein the instructions further result in:

determining the log-in session timeout time limit.

29. The article of claim 28, wherein the instructions further result in:

receiving information to identify a user; and

looking up data about the identified user to determine the log-in session timeout time limit.

30. An article comprising: a storage medium, the storage medium having instructions stored thereon, wherein when the instructions are executed by at least one device, they result in:

establishing a modem connection with a network device over a telephone line;

exchanging data with the network device over the modem connection;

transmitting through the modem connection a first request for temporarily discontinuing the modem connection;

temporarily discontinuing the modem connection pursuant to the first request; and

receiving from the network device a warning message that a next request for temporarily discontinuing the modem connection will be denied.

31. The article of claim 30, wherein the instructions further result in:

5   additionally receiving a reason for the warning message.

32. The article of claim 30, wherein the instructions further result in:

receiving a line request to transmit to the network device a new MOH request for temporarily discontinuing the modem connection after receiving the warning

10   message; and

not transmitting the new MOH request over the telephone line responsive to having received the warning message.

33. The article of claim 32, wherein the instructions further result in:

15   notifying a user that the line request is denied.

34. A method comprising:

establishing a modem connection with a modem over a telephone line;

exchanging data with the modem over the modem connection;

20   receiving from the modem a first MOH request for temporarily discontinuing the modem connection;

granting the first request and starting a timer;

receiving from the modem a second MOH request for temporarily discontinuing the modem connection again;

25   consulting the timer to determine whether a log-in session timeout time limit has been exceeded; and

if the log-in session timeout time limit has been exceeded, denying the second MOH request.

30   35. The method of claim 34, further comprising:

transmitting to the modem a warning message that subsequent requests will also be denied.

36. The method of claim 34, further comprising:

35   additionally transmitting a reason for denying the second MOH request.

37.   The method of claim 34, further comprising:

if the log-in session timeout time limit has not been exceeded, restarting the timer.

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38.   The method of claim 34, wherein

the log-in session timeout time limit is a preset default maximum timeout value.

10   39.   The method of claim 34, further comprising:

determining the log-in session timeout time limit.

40.   The method of claim 39, further comprising:

receiving information to identify a user; and

15   looking up data about the identified user to determine the log-in session timeout time limit.

41.   A method comprising:

establishing a modem connection with a network device over a telephone line;

20   exchanging data with the network device over the modem connection;

transmitting through the modem connection a first request for temporarily discontinuing the modem connection;

temporarily discontinuing the modem connection pursuant to the first request; and

25   receiving from the network device a warning message that a next request for temporarily discontinuing the modem connection will be denied.

42.   The method of claim 41, further comprising:

additionally receiving a reason for the warning message.

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43.   The method of claim 41, further comprising:

receiving a line request to transmit to the network device a new MOH request for temporarily discontinuing the modem connection after receiving the warning message; and

not transmitting the new MOH request over the telephone line responsive to having received the warning message.

44. The method of claim 43, further comprising:

5   notifying a user that the line request is denied.